

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, December 18, 2001 - 1:30 p.m.
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Ocotillo Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chair	Brian Fellows, Mesa
Carol Scherbarth, ADOT	Tim Bolton, Peoria
*Tami Ryall, Gilbert	Kristina Fields, Phoenix
Debbie Burdette, Glendale	Randi Alcott, RPTA
Janeen Holloman, Goodyear	Gary Meyer, Scottsdale
*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park	Elizabeth Thomas, Tempe
Reed Kempton, Maricopa County	

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dawn M. Coomer, MAG	Maureen DeCindis, MAG
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1. Call to Order

Chairman Pat McDermott called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Approval of the November 20, 2001 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force

Debbie Burdette moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force from November 20, 2001. Brian Fellows seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

No one in the audience wished to address the Task Force.

4. Staff Report

Maureen DeCindis reported the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) will have a special meeting after the the first of the year to discuss the recommendations for 2007 Transportation Improvement Program.

5. Member Agency Report

Elizabeth Thomas reported that the City of Tempe will have a design task force meeting with the artist and ADOT on the Country Club bridge project this week. The meeting will be held at Changing Hands Bookstore, and all committee members are invited to attend.

Debbie Burdette said that the City of Glendale transportation tax will provide funding for the Glendale bike ride that will be scheduled with the annual "Bike to BOB" in the spring.

Gary Meyer stated that the City of Scottsdale is working on paths and trails on the Arizona Canal west of Scottsdale Road that will connect to the Cross Cut Canal and Papago Park.

Reed Kempton announced that the Maricopa County Trails Commission will receive an update on the next phase of the County trail system that includes the White Tanks to Spur Cross Ranch. Public meetings will be held in January, and committee members will be informed of the meetings.

6. Update of the Activities of the Transportation Review Committee

Pat McDermott reported that the bicycle projects received at least \$2 million dollars more for 2007 than in 2006. The recommended list of bike projects seem like they will stay intact even through the next round of discussions. Reed Kempton added that when the TRC returned the projects to the modal committees, only the Street Committee rearranged their projects. None of the other committees changed their decision.

7. MAG Safety Stakeholders Group

Maureen DeCindis reported that MAG has created a Safety Stakeholders Group to identify safety concerns in the areas of street, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, emergency services, elderly mobility, education and enforcement. Brian Fellows will be the liaison from the Bicycle Task Force to the Safety Stakeholders Group. Maureen DeCindis handed out the list of participants on the Safety Stakeholders Pedestrian/Bicycle subcommittee and asked if any other Task Force members would like to be on the committee or receive notices of the meetings.

8. Discussion of Future Work Activities for the Bicycle Task Force to Pursue in 2002

Pat McDermott lead a discussion to identify the most important projects the Task Force would work on this coming year. The committee reviewed the ideas and comments from the December 5, 2000 Bicycle Task Force meeting and the work activities described in the MAG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Kristina Fields asked Reed Kempton if the County Central Arizona Project (CAP) study needs help from the committee. Reed Kempton replied that the study will be working out the political realities of placing a path next to the canal. He may request committee assistance in the future.

Dawn Coomer suggested that the committee might want to identify projects to submit for funding when staff updates the UPWP for the next fiscal year. This process begins in January. Debbie Burdette suggested that the committee could do a research project. Discussion ensued as to what the research project may include, such as a statistical report identifying latent demand for bicycle facilities. Randi Alcott reported that RPTA has looked for bicycle statistics such as crash information. Reed Kempton replied that ADOT has crash statistics on their web site.

- a Brian Fellows said that there are no surveys quantifying bike usage. Randi Alcott suggested that a research study separated by geographic area ascertaining bicycle usage would cost approximately \$15,000 for a consultant to conduct. Elizabeth Thomas pointed out that not all demand can be quantified because usage will increase as more destinations are created. Kristina Fields suggested that a report could address unfounded perceptions – for example, that housing values decrease if a bike facility is installed or that there is no correlation between increased bike use and crime. Statistics could justify educational program to change behavior.

Debbie Burdette discussed the need for convenience of bicycle facilities so that more people would use them more frequently. Gary Meyer stated that a map or educational piece illustrating where the canals interconnect would help demonstrate how convenient they are. Kristina Fields agreed and suggested distributing the map to more people because more people would ride if they knew where to ride.

Brian Fellows added an idea of the committee sponsoring a local/state conference addressing physical activity and biking and walking. Public health agencies, seniors, planners and engineers would be invited. There are a lot of statistics from the Centers for Disease Control identifying health issues related to lack of physical activity. The goal of the conference would be to discuss ways to promote biking and walking to combat the ill effects of lack of physical activity.

Janeen Holloman suggested working with ADOT so they will give bicycling a higher priority in their projects such as incorporating bike lanes into construction of Loop 303. Randi Alcott asked if ADOT engineers could brief this committee on all upcoming projects to receive bicycle advice in advance of all road projects. Pat McDermott replied that the city staff itself should advocate for bicycle facilities to be a higher priority on each project. Reed Kempton added that ADOT has agreed to install the standard cross-section that jurisdictions currently have in place. Carol Scherbath reconfirmed that ADOT matches all the cross-sections according to each jurisdiction

Randi Alcott asked if this committee could educate all the cities on the importance of bicycle facilities. MAG standards for street developments do not include bike facility standards. Pat McDermott said that bikes still are not addressed sufficiently because the underlying premise is that bicycling is not important to the general population. Advocates are needed to promote cycling. The general population must believe that providing infrastructure for safe bicycling is important for both bicyclists and non-cyclists.

Randi Alcott suggested a presentation should be created to educate the city councils, city managers, traffic and streets departments on the importance of bicycling. Reed Kempton replied that he has the presentation that Randi Alcott had described. Brian Fellows reminded the group of a very successful mobile workshop Reed Kempton organized for engineers to experience rumble strips on streets. The mobile workshop successfully helped the engineers understand the relevant issues.

Reed Kempton stated that the heaviest transportation corridor is between the East Valley and Downtown Phoenix. The gaps in the bicycle facilities in this corridor should be addressed. If it is easy to ride to work, more people will bicycle. Elizabeth Thomas agreed that convenience is the same issue in getting more bus riders. She thinks that a larger grassroots effort will help with getting more bike facilities. Reed Kempton said that the committee should be helping change the perception so that the general public understands that it is reasonably easy to ride now. Pat McDermott added that marketing should include educating local elected officials.

Carol Scherbath is working with ADOT engineers to update the ADOT bike policy. Reed Kempton has met with ADOT and agrees that ADOT has made huge improvements.

Randi Alcott described the Valley Forward environmental report card that has results that are respected by all the cities. Maureen DeCindis asked if Valley Forward would consider including bicycling issues in their report. Gary Meyer and Randi Alcott are on the Valley Forward Board of Directors and will ask if Valley Forward would consider adding bicycling issues to their survey. Janeen Holloman and Tim Bolton expressed concern that the criteria should not be written in such a way that smaller cities look bad. For example, the number of bike facilities added may be much lower in a smaller city. Randi Alcott explained that the criteria would be written so that small cities issues would be taken into consideration. Gary Meyer added that planning and policy issues would more than likely be addressed rather than strict quantitative data. Randi Alcott requested that this committee help develop the criteria.

Maureen DeCindis suggested expanding membership in the Bike Task Force with members from business, community, and environmental groups. They would be invited to participate as voting members. Dawn Coomer added that a broad based memberships work well on other MAG committees including the Pedestrian Working Group. Randi Alcott suggested adding a member from residential developers association.

Janeen Holloman expressed concern that the committee must have a voice in the update of the 2008 TIP format.

Debbie Burdette asked if there were any other source of funding for bicycle facilities. Kristina Fields replied that in other communities Rails to Trails has funded some facilities. Carol Scherbath added that State Parks has \$1 million a year for bike recreation projects. Pat McDermott reminded the group that MAG can't fund recreation projects because CMAQ won't allow a project that is not for transportation. Projects must link people to destinations. Reed Kempton noted that Bikes Belong just gave \$10,000 for a project but that amount is too small

to build facilities. Dawn Coomer suggested the bicycle facilities should be an element in the extension of the regional tax.

Randi Alcott suggested doing a peer city survey by choosing similar cities with the same geographic area and compare the number of bicycle facilities with Phoenix area. Reed Kempton noted that Bicycling Magazine does a report like this and that this region has many more miles of bike lanes than most cities in the country.

Pat McDermott asked the committee to summarize areas of emphasis for projects for next year. A draft work program will be developed from the main points:

- Promote existing facilities by educating the public about walking and bicycling opportunities on currently existing pathways.
- Marketing and education is needed for the general public and elected officials on the benefits of trails, safe cycling, existing facilities and destinations and the need for bicycle facilities planning to be incorporated into all road construction and re-construction projects.
- Prioritizing bike projects for the TIP will continue to be the basic charge of the Task Force. This year the committee would like to address changes in the TIP form.
- Expand membership of Task Force to include private sector groups.
- Create an impetus for cities and towns to plan more bicycle facilities for example by working with Valley Forward to get bicycle issues on their environmental report card and expanding bicycle award categories in conjunction with Clean Air Awards or Valley Forward awards.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Bicycle Task Force will be on **February 19, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Ocotillo Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.